

MEETING SUMMARY
DOWNTOWN BALLARD PARKING WORKGROUP
JULY 18, 2003
NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICE CENTER
8:00 - 9:00 AM

ATTENDEES

Kevin Carrabine, resident
Steve Cohn, Ballard District Council
Sue Allegra, All the Kings Flags & Ballard

Chamber
Crystal Carlson, Great Harvest Bread
Company & Ballard Chamber
Scott Clark, Clark Design Group & Ballard
Chamber

Karen Lee Kimber, Swedish Hospital
Kay Ogren, Burke's Café & Ballard District
Council

Rob Mattson, Department of Neighborhoods
Meghan Shepard, Seattle Department of
Transportation (SDOT)
Randy Wiger, SDOT

Notes prepared by Randy Wiger

ACTION ITEMS

- Meghan will find out what the hourly rate of hooded meters on NW 56th will be.

MEETING SUMMARY

Follow-Up Items

Meghan announced that copies of Kick-Off and Walking Tour summaries will be posted on the program website shortly so that they are available to people who may not be able to attend the meetings. Meghan then briefly summarized the Kick-Off and Walking Tour notes provided in the meeting packet.

DOWNTOWN BALLARD PARKING MATRIX

Meghan presented the Downtown Ballard Parking Matrix and explained it has been constructed from comments by participants at the Kick-Off meeting and Walking Tour, as well as from existing sources such as the Ballard Neighborhood Plan, Civic Center Master Plan, South Corridor Study, and other documents. She then asked attendees to take a few minutes to pick their top five priorities out of items listed on the matrix, which will then be tallied to form the basis of a workplan for the group.

The matrix is organized into six main sections (indicted in the grey colored section headers), and within each section the big picture items are in bold type. Specific items that support the implementation of the big picture items are listed under it and preceded by ellipses (i.e. ...). Meghan asked that people focus on the big picture items in bold, although if someone felt strongly about some of the specific items preceded by ellipses they could include them in their list of top five items.

Each person then shared their choices as the group discussed the matrix items.

PARKING MATRIX COMMENTS

1. *Many of the matrix items seem longer term than the time frame of your six-month program.* Meghan said that both short-term (six months or less to implement) and long-term items (over six months to implement) are part of the program. Karen added that Swedish would definitely need community support to lobby Metro for better service.

2. *The goals in the Transportation Demand Management (TDM) section of the matrix appear to be long-term versus short-term goals.*

Over time as density in Ballard increases, we will have to help employers/employees to make the transition to busing, carpooling or other non single-occupant-vehicle (SOV) forms of commuting. Scott commented that as the number of residential/mixed-use developments increase, residential parking needs will become more important.

3. *Are the merchants who requested that the meters on NW 56th be hooded here today, and have they requested that the hoods be removed? There is confusion over the hoods on the meters on NW 56th. Some people park in those spaces all day while others think that they can't park there at all.*

Yes. Both the Ballard Chamber and the Merchants Association formally requested that the meters be hooded, and today they are both requesting that the hoods be removed. The 2000 Comprehensive Neighborhood Parking Study shows that on average people are parking in the studied areas of downtown Ballard 2.1 hours on average.

4. *What will the hourly rate of the hooded meters be?*

Meghan is not sure but will find out. Billy Jack, SDOT Traffic Control, will check the meters to ensure they are in good operating order to avoid customer frustration once the hoods are removed.

5. *What is the status of the way-finding signs for off-street parking?*

Meghan said she and other SDOT staff identified preliminary locations for the signs during the previous week. The signs will use a newly-standardized City design of blue on white with a large "P" inside a circle, with an arrow. Scott mentioned there was a navigational study done by Prof. George Rolfe of the University of Washington which recommended a series of right-hand turns. Additionally, there is concern that downtown Ballard is not adequately benefiting from tourism at the locks and signs for visitors approaching from the west would be useful.

6. *Will the City do a Master Plan for the Ballard Locks? The Army Corp of Engineers has expressed interest in this and the situation around the locks will only intensify with the changes coming to Burke-Gilman Trail route.*

Meghan said that at this time the City has no plans to do a Master Plan for the Ballard Locks. She explained the changes proposed for the Locks parking area as the Burke-Gilman Trail is extended.

NEW TOPICS

Community Forum

Coming up quickly is the need to schedule a forum, possibly in late September, for the Workgroup to present their recommendations and priorities to the larger community. At the August 15th Workgroup meeting people will be able to take items back to their respective groups for discussion prior to the forum.

The issue was raised of how long does the larger community have to make comments and provide feedback. The amount of time available for review is up to the Workgroup - in other neighborhoods most of the comments/feedback occurred at the community forum, or within a week or so afterwards. However it is not necessary to wait for all comments to come in if there are some items that have overwhelming agreement and support - action can be taken on those items while comments on more controversial items continue to come in. An example of this is that the request to convert the load zone behind the Gob Shoppe to a parking space has already been made to the appropriate SDOT staff.

Meeting Adjourned